

2023-2025 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Year 3



CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease					
Strategy 1: Establish baselines and provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers and community members.					
Goal: Decrease Communicable Diseases, including Sexually Transmitted Infections in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, reduce the rate of communicable diseases (including STIs) in Portage County.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<p><u>Activity 1:</u> Gather annual baseline rate of communicable diseases and sexually transmitted infections for Portage County.</p> <p>Additionally, gather baseline rate of communicable diseases (specifically Hepatitis).</p>	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	<p>2024 CD report – chlamydia, gonorrhea, Hep C were down compared to 2023. Documentation of trends available in the report. Chlamydia and gonorrhea are #1,2 CD among those 14-26 years</p> <p>2025 – On track similar with 2024. Hep C (Chronic) – only 3 confirmed cases</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Provide education on prevention and treatment with individuals in the community.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District</p> <p>Cowan Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe</p>	<p>Sexuality education – Root House – provides education twice monthly.</p> <p>Southeast Schools – education with middle school students</p> <p>Senior Citizens – Nichols Woods sexuality education – consent, healthy relationships and STI’s – senior housing</p> <p>Cowan – STI Screenings not including Hep C/HIV = 22. Treatment program continues.</p> <p>KCHD– 21 chlamydia, 7 gonorrhea, Hep B = 2, Hep C = 3</p>

					Narrative important to explain progress and reasons (ie. Funding) that can challenge future progress. Olivia can package all updates CHIP “YTD” status to include in CHA.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers through educational newsletters.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	No update.

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease					
Strategy 2: Educate Portage County community on risk factors and obesity prevention as well as increase screenings.					
Goal: Decrease Obesity in Portage County					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of prediabetes screenings in Portage County.					
Programs/Activities	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Educate and screen the community on obesity risk factors and prevention which include hypertension, BMI, and pre-diabetes screenings. Work with the Portage County Health District program to implement screening opportunities for obesity risk factors.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Cowan Stevens, AxessPointe Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	1,230 screenings (Heart Health Month) Cowan: Pre Diabetes Screenings = 76
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase awareness of physical activity	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach	13 Park Rx programs (131 people)



programming with the Portage Parks.				Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center in partnership with Portage Parks	
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide community education on nutrition, and physical activity.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	UH Portage: 1,126 attendees SAIL – PCHD = 275 participants SAIL – KCHD = 96 served

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

Strategy 3: Increase access and participation in community-based nutrition programs such as farmers markets.

Goal: Increase Fruit and Vegetable Access and Consumption in Portage County

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase access to fruit and vegetables in Portage County

Programs/Activities	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<p><u>Activity 1:</u> Partner and provide resources to participants in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). This program distributes vouchers to WIC eligible families for use at locations licensed by the state, including the Haymaker Farmers' Markets, where they can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. WIC Perks vouchers are free at the Haymaker market table each week for WIC customers receiving WIC benefits to be used to buy \$10 in fresh fruits & vegetables at the Market. Customers just need to show their current WIC card at the Market table.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm Market in Kent</p> <p>Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No update Jan-March 2025</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach	No update

<p>Power of the Produce kids program – a kids club at Haymaker Farm market (the largest farm market in Portage county) that teaches children under 12 about healthy eating and provides a direct benefit to them to try fresh fruit and vegetables at market. \$2.00 tokens are provided to each kid for fruit and vegetable purchases.</p>				<p>Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p>	
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Participate in the Produce Perks - Produce Perks is a grant funded program through “Produce Perks Midwest” that seeks to increase SNAP use at Farmers’ Markets and increase fruit & vegetable consumption. Customers are given a matching benefit of \$25/week in Produce Perk tokens, when they use their SNAP benefits at Market. These green tokens can then be used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at Market.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p>	N/A
<p><u>Activity 4:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the Senior Nutrition Program vouchers – The Senior Nutrition Program is administered by the Portage County Senior Center, who</p>	X	X	X	<p>Jodie Neu, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	N/A

distributes packets of \$5 vouchers to area senior citizens, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Haymaker Farmers' Market.				Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent Annett Ludwick, Director, Portage Senior Center	
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CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

Strategy 4: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings and resource referrals

Goal: Increase Food Security in Portage County

Objective: Continue and expand SDOH screenings and referrals in Portage County by December 31, 2025.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Continue and expand referrals and participation addressing food insecurity, its impact on health at the University Hospitals Portage Food For Life Market.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	FFL Market served 523 participants which included 1,109 family members (shop for families of 4) PCHD Pop-up pantry served 673 families Jan-March Presented PCHD ACRFB partnership on ODH Statewide HC/Leadership call. Modeling new health departments' pop-up pantries after PCHD.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxessPointe.	X	X	X	Cowan Stevens, AxessPointe	Food insecurity screenings = 1,284 Referral for food insecurity to CHW = 40 Patients screened positive for food insecurity = 122

<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.</p>	X	X	X	TBD, Northeast Ohio Medical University Free Clinic	SDOH screening tool has been implemented, with support from Dr. Amy Lee.
<p><u>Activity 4:</u> Provide education and food security resources at Portage County Food Banks/Pantries prioritizing the zip codes of 44288, 44411, 44266.</p> <p>Resources: HEAL Guide and JFS Resource List</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Maureen Gebhardt, Community Impact and Volunteers, United Way (partner for identification of resources/data reporting)</p>	<p>1,795 served at food banks</p> <p>44411 0 calls 44288 – 0 calls 44266 – 36 calls 44201 – 8 calls 44240 – 48 calls</p> <p>PCHD Food resource dashboard viewed 317 times this quarter.</p>
<p><u>Activity 5:</u> Continue to partner and participate with the Ravenna School Raven Pack program. Over 75% of the students in the Ravenna School District meet the federal free/reduced lunch income requirements. Raven Packs were established as a community wide initiative to address food insecurity in the Ravenna School district. A Raven Pack has assorted food items to provide the recipient food when away from school.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Laura Wunderle, Ravenna teacher and program coordinator of the Raven pack program</p>	<p>Raven Packs 2,727 bags packed for elementary students</p> <p>Hope to continue the summer produce donation program to distribute at PMHA – Mindy/Laura planning</p> <p>Birdie Bags – now distributes to all schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy will reach out to Candace Curtis, Sara Beatty and invite them to join future CHIP meetings.
<p><u>Activity 6:</u> Sustaining community Gardens focusing on food desserts</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community	No updates

<p>and vulnerable populations with the goal of expanding access of Portage County community gardens to additional schools, senior living facilities, and shelters.</p>			<p>Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Cindy Widuck, Community Public Health Outreach and Development College of Public Health, Kent state University and Let's Grow Together Coalition, director</p>	
<p><u>Activity 7:</u> Explore the connection of those in need of fresh produce to those with an abundance of fresh produce.</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>Portage County District Library – Seed sharing library at every library – abundance from local gardeners – donations to Mindy’s program with Raven Packs and PMHA</p> <p>Johnathan Harris – Library- sent Mindy the email forwarded by Sarah</p> <p>Suggestion to add article in Portager to promote “Grow An Extra Row” Gardening dilemmas will be Master Gardeners column coming soon!</p>

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health					
Strategy 1: Pilot home visiting programs that begin prenatally to identify needs and improve pregnancy outcomes.					
Goal: Improve Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, implement a prenatal/postpartum home visiting program (focusing on Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna) to reduce preterm birth, low birth weight, and infant mortality.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<p><u>Activity 1:</u> Implement CHW program at Portage County Health District in partnership with Kent State University.</p> <p>(Year 3 goal: Hire a CWH at PCHD to provide community outreach for Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna.)</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No updates Exploring HMG
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses, health educators, and CHWs to achieve healthy birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality.</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No updates
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Year 3 goal: Once established, implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on breastfeeding,</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No updates

WIC, tobacco cessation, immunizations, safe sleep practices, car seat safety, transportation, etc.					
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CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 2: Implement early urgent maternal warning signs education program within Portage County

Goal: Improve Pregnancy, Birth, and Post-Partum Outcomes

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the knowledge of the signs of hypertension in pregnancy and postpartum outcomes through education and outreach.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Urgent Maternal Warning Signs (UMWS) for identifying preeclampsia education provided prenatally and postpartum to all WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	200 WIC participants (pregnant/postpartum) received UMWS education.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Explore community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy and post-partum outcomes by UH Portage Medical Center.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	No update
<u>Activity 2:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses,	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	N/A



health educators, and CHWs to improve post-partum outcomes.					
<u>Activity 3</u> : Year 3 goal: Once established, implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on maternal warning signs.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	N/A

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health					
Strategy 3: Develop and implement tools and processes for tracking prenatal care visits and deliveries in Portage County.					
Goal: Improve Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, track and understand impact of University Hospitals Portage Labor and Delivery closing for Portage County.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1</u> : Track number of EMS transports for pregnancy and labor related conditions.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	New Maternal Health Report available – PCHD website. UH Portage very complimentary to Olivia. 21% women had gestational hypertension 2 births in ambulances, 17 home births (planned) in 2024 Olivia- Top 4 hospitals for 2024 births for Portage County women: Summa Akron City: 418; UH Ahuja: 320; Hillcrest Hospital: 164; Akron General: 139



<u>Activity 2:</u> Establish a process to obtain and review birth certificate data, comparing residency of birthing individual compared to their delivery location.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District (back up)	Available through birth certificate data (Vital Statistics)
<u>Activity 3:</u> Maintain and share prenatal care visit options in Portage County and surrounding counties.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	No longer exploring. Residents are not having difficulty accessing prenatal care. *Maternal UH High Risk OBGYN in Streetsboro for prenatal care
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track prenatal care and delivery United Way 211 calls for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	Maureen Gebhardt, United Way	United Way 211 received one phone call from a pregnant individual seeking case/care management. 23 callers to 211 reported that there was a pregnant or postpartum individual in the household.

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 4: Improve birthing person, fetal, and child health outcomes through increasing WIC participation.

Goal: Improve overall health outcomes and prevent nutrition-related illness among at-risk women, infants, and children.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase WIC enrollment by 10%.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Increase enrollment in WIC program.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Average Caseload Jan-March 2025 = 1,799 (1,774-1,812)
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track initial birth weight and growth/ development of WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC,	LBW = 57 (15%) Born Early = 200 (54%) – defined as less than 39 weeks gestation



				Portage County WIC	
<u>Activity 3:</u> Implement one pop-up clinic within a targeted community each quarter.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Pop-up WIC clinic in Windham (1/25) – served 6 participants
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Breastfeeding initiation = 78.26%; State Average = 67.43%

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health					
Strategy 5: Implement reproductive health and wellness interventions.					
Goal: Increase sustainability of reproductive health and wellness services					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, implement a health and reproductive health and wellness program to increase the use of reproductive health interventions for Medicaid-eligible and un/underinsured residents.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses, health educators, and CHWs to increase use of reproductive health interventions.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	N/A
<u>Activity 2:</u> Year 3 goal: Once established, implement	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing,	N/A

opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on reproductive health interventions.				Portage County Health District	
<u>Activity 3</u> : Provide referrals and resources to individuals to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowan Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe Job and Family Services	Referrals to OBGYN = 11

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 6: Reduce the use of tobacco products used during pregnancy.

Goal: Reduce number of pregnant individuals in Portage County who smoke during pregnancy.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase screening of pregnant individuals for smoking by 5%.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Provide outreach for cessation services through the development and distribution of resource guide.	X	X	X	Jaleesa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Kent City – Resource available – please email Jaleesa if interested Moms Quit for 2 Program – Dept of Family and Youth - exploring
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track number of pregnant WIC participants who use nicotine and/or tobacco or nicotine replacement during pregnancy.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	31 participants (8%)
<u>Activity 3:</u> Track number of pregnant individuals smoking tobacco in the third trimester or at all during pregnancy.	X	X	X	Jaleesa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Olivia – 322 births – 18 smoked first trimester, 15 second, 16 third trimester (18 individuals smoked sometime during pregnancy)
<u>Activity 4:</u> Educate University Hospitals OB/GYN providers about tobacco treatment counseling resources (early 2023)	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	4 referrals

Track the number of pregnant individuals referred for tobacco treatment counseling.				Hospitals Portage Medical Center	
<u>Activity 5</u> : Smoke-free policy passed and implemented in at least one establishment in Portage County (i.e., Schools, private housing, behavioral health facility).	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	KCHD - OUR Place has adopted smoke free policy. Cessation support group to be developed following surveys of participants. Goal of 90% smoke free by 6/30/25.

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health					
Strategy 7: Address the need for affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.					
Goal: Increase the availability and accessibility of affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, better understand the gaps and opportunities to address affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1</u> : Assure affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.				Kimberly Macphail, Job and Family Services	Holly Rhodes – Phone system has changed – outbound system. Scheduled and JFS calls them back. Wait was never over 30 minutes last week in the first week Daycare lines – minimal wait times New message -apply online not by phone Only accept inbound calls until noon daily (330-297-3750)
<u>Activity 2</u> : Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.		X	X	Lanika Mutsach, Kent City Health Department	Developed a report of high quality childcare facilities and strategies to identify quality child care.

Activity 3: Track childcare referrals from United Way 211 calls for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	Maureen Gebhardt, United Way	There were 7 calls for child care in Portage County.

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction					
Strategy 1: Provide community-based activities and trainings to raise awareness.					
Goal: Decrease suicide related deaths in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, reduce stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
Activity 1: Conduct suicide prevention trainings for community and school staff.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	From Jan-Mar, 2025, 99 people received suicide prevention training. 47 staff members at Aurora School District were trained. 26 community members received QPR training, and 22 community members were trained in Mental Health First Aid. TH2 Signs of Suicide programming grades 6-12 (386 youth trained). QPR Hiram College Nursing Students = 9 TH2 Resilience training – 6 students trained – Cope to Thrive
Activity 2: Engage with employers to learn their struggles with employees on mental health & addiction issues.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	Delivered a presentation on “Mental Health in the Workplace” city/township clerk employees, approximately 20 people. Presented to Hometown Bank (Kent) employees on crisis situations in the workplace.

				Hospitals Portage Medical Center	
<u>Activity 3:</u> Engage community centers on mental health issues to reach key community groups.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Distributed flyers on Gambling Awareness to Ravenna community centers and minority churches. Presentation on Older Adult Substance Misuse at the Skeels Community Center to approximately 20 attendees and the Crestwood Senior Center to approximately 12 attendees (PCHD, MHRB, Sheriff’s Office).

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 2: Raise awareness of loss support groups and connect to resources for “traditional” loss and for all loss

Goal: Address and reduce community-level risk factors for suicidal ideation in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, address the role of loss in suicide risk.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Support Grief Recovery Method through outreach; information sharing.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	KCHD – Grief Recovery Method will be offered again in September, 2025. One on one sessions are available if urgent need arises.

<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Provide mental health resources for individuals going through divorce.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board</p>	<p>Terra – providing folders for children with parents going through divorce. Attempting to connect with Judge Giulitto</p>
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board</p>	<p>Shared mental health resources, 988 information, and rural outreach materials at the Township Trustee dinner with 60 attendees.</p>
<p><u>Activity 4:</u> Provide resources to families of those who have lost loved ones to suicide and overdose in Portage County.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Terra Howell-Muth Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board</p>	<p>Sent out letters/resources to survivors of suicide loss through 2/14/25</p>

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 3: Identify and evaluate data available for suicide deaths and suicide attempts in Portage County.

Goal: Address and reduce community-level risk factors for suicidal ideation in Portage County.

Objective: Identify groups at highest risk for suicide for intervention and risk reduction.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Track and report 988 data for Portage County.	X	X	X	Rebekah Swango, Townhall II	Townhall II answered 550 calls through 988 crisis line between Jan 1-Mar 31, 2025. Safety forces were needed 16 times.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track and report Portage County resident data for ED and urgent care for attempted suicides to identify possible trends.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	As of April 7, 198 ED visits for self-harm, suicide ideation or attempted suicide. 3 suicides occurred this year – Portage County residents.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Evaluate Coroner’s Data Report (monthly) to determine number of deaths by suicide to identify possible trends and/or prevention strategies.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	20 men died by suicide in Portage County in 2024 (no women). This is a decrease from 2023 in which 29 people died. Developing a Suicide Fatality Review Board for Portage County with the MHRB and Portage Health District that will begin in 2025.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Collect and Evaluate ACEs scores from behavioral health agencies in Portage County.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Reviewed all 2024 data received, not able to really analyze it meaningfully because all agencies did not submit data for the entire year, or at all. Waiting on January-March 2025 data, will be analyzing quarterly and yearly moving forward.

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction



Strategy 4: Promotion of gun safety.					
Goal: Address and reduce community-level risk factors for suicidal ideation in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, decrease risk of suicide among gun owners in Portage County.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Create and implement a plan to reach home bound older adults.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Dropping off additional resources for Mobile Meals for Easter meal; older adults and substance use and older adults and depression/anxiety (Mobile Meals is through AxessPointe/Axess Family Services)
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide social service and faith-based agencies with gun safety and suicide prevention information to distribute.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	No update
<u>Activity 3:</u> Reach sportsmen with gun locks and suicide prevention materials.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	Distributed gun safety and suicide awareness materials along with local mental health resources at the Township Trustee dinner to 60 attendees. Sportsmen Dinner to resume in 2026. KCHD distributed 12 gun locks, Kent City Police distributed 25 gun locks at Lions Pancake Breakfast.

			Hospitals Portage Medical Center	
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CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 5: Comprehensive community-based plan to reduce alcohol abuse among adults in Portage County.

Goal: Decrease substance use in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, decrease adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors in Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Engage with employers to learn their struggles with employees on mental health & addiction issues.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Delivered a presentation on “Mental Health in the Workplace” city/township clerk employees, approximately 20 people. Presented to Hometown Bank (Kent) employees on crisis situations in the workplace. UH Portage served 92 people.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Develop and implement a 45-min presentation to offer to community.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	No update
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop and implement marketing campaigns and programs to raise awareness about adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Presentation on Older Adult Substance Misuse at the Skeels Community Center to approximately 20 attendees and the Crestwood/Mantua Senior Center to approximately 12 attendees. Distributed drug disposal pouches and naloxone.

				Substance Abuse Coalition	
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CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction					
Strategy 6: Comprehensive community-based plan to reduce substance misuse (including overdose) among adults in Portage County					
Goal: Decrease substance use in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, decrease adult opioid related deaths in Portage County.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Ohio EMS Dashboard – 38 doses Naloxone administered by EMS
<u>Activity 2:</u> Project DAWN Narcan (Narcan) distribution.	X	X	X	Kylee McCracken, Health Educator, Portage County Health District	Jan-March PD report: 397 kits distributed 561 people educated 30 reversals reported by the community 50 kits given to law enforcement 28 kits placed in naloxboxes (14 total naloxboxes) 4 reversals reported by law enforcement 0 deaths reported by law enforcement IH25 grant awarded to PCHD. Goals to install harm reduction vending machines, expand Naloxboxes. KSU DeWeese Health Center – Naloxboxes into residence halls - 113 kits distributed
Activity 3: Continued overdose death review.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist,	In 2024, 33 people died in Portage County from accidental overdose. This is a decrease from 2023 in which 46 people died.



				Portage County Health District Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Developing an overdose fatality review board with the Portage County Health District. Will begin in 2025. Olivia Card - YTD – 56 ED visits for unintentional overdoses UH Portage has Pharmacist stationed in ED, who distributes Narcan. Mindy will reach out to gather numbers.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic.	X	X	X	AxessPointe	AxessPointe distributed: Naloxone -10, Fentanyl test strips- 7, Syringes-4, Wound Care items (band-aids-5, antibiotic ointment-3, alcohol pads-6, sharps container-1) *Syringes and wound care items were given to Sara Slanina (Kent EMS) to distribute to a person she knew in need of them* AxessPointe and KCHD have MOU for needle exchange (Safe Point) for two years AxessPointe mobile van – still primarily used for dental services at health fairs, etc. Can also perform basic health screenings, sports physicals, etc. Have not used for harm reduction as of yet.

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction					
Strategy 7: Provide access to support resources and raise awareness of the risks of tobacco, smoking, and vaping.					
Goal: Decrease use of tobacco, smoking, and vaping in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase awareness of and participation in the Ohio Quit Line by 5%					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Increase the awareness of the Ohio Tobacco Quitline.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation	February – Quitline vendor changed. Awaiting further guidance. Should have modernized resources, youth services, better



				Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	resources and information, especially for teens, young adults up to age 26.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase awareness of other cessation programs/resources in Portage County.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Contact Jalessa if interested in adding your agency information to the resource guide. KCHD - OUR Place – smoke free. Cessation support group to be developed following surveys of participants. Goal of 90% smoke free by 6/30/25
<u>Activity 3:</u> Increase referrals by primary care to smoking cessation services within University Hospitals Portage Medical Center.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	30 referrals to UH Portage smoking cessation programs. Harrington Heart and Vascular – class taught by Respiratory Therapist following provider referral. In-person or virtual options Mindy reports Recovery Works – recognizes need for smoking cessation during support groups. Cowan – smoking cessation program through pharmacy. PCP refers to pharmacy. Targeting IOP group. Just started, will provide numbers at next quarterly meeting.

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction					
Strategy 8: Remove barriers and increase access to mental health, addiction, and crisis services.					
Goal: Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, identify and address barriers to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Explore feasibility of mobile van for basic health care services including harm reduction.	X			Cowan Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe	No use of mobile van for harm reduction currently. Utilizing site in Kent as the main site.

<u>Activity 2</u> : Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health.	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Between Jan 1-Mar 31, 2025 Youth mobile and adult community referrals for mental health outreach with Coleman served; 28 for youth, 17 for adults.
<u>Activity 3</u> : Transportation training for agencies to increase transportation; ensure participating agencies implement internal policies for training of new staff.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of Community Health, Portage County Health District	No update
<u>Activity 4</u> : Explore the feasibility of adding 23-hr Observation units for Crisis services.	X			Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	MHRB & Coleman began construction on the new Portage Crisis Center in Ravenna (February 2025). Hope for February 2026 opening.
<u>Activity 5</u> : Recruit a workforce for crisis services at area universities.	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	No updates
<u>Activity 6</u> : Engage law enforcement and medical stakeholders about the county's crisis continuum needs.	X	X	X	John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	UH Emergency staff, Coleman, MHRB, and police met in January to discuss crisis cases. The Stepping Up Portage committee met in March and shared a report on the work being accomplished in the criminal justice system and behavioral health areas to help reduce the number of people with mental illness & substance use disorder in jail. Other work being done in housing and transportation was shared.